

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS AO CU

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH PRIMIN PINDLING ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN ANGOLA

1. IN THE COURSE OF A BRIEF DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH
PRIMIN PINDLING ON A NUMBER OF MINOR MATTERS, ONE POINT
EMERGED WHICH SEEMS WORTH REPORTING.

2. THE PRIMIN IS TO MAKE A SPEECH IN CHICAGO ON FEBRUARY 12.
I ASKED IN A HALF-SERIOUS VEIN WHETHER HE INTENDED TO
INCLUDE ANY COMMENTS ON THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.
THIS SET OFF A CONVERSATION IN WHICH THE PRIMIN STATED "MY
OWN POSITION ON THIS MATTER IS CLEAR. THE CUBANS HAVE NO
BUSINESS THERE." HE SEEMED TO TURN THE MATTER OVER IN HIS
MIND AND INDICATED THAT HE JUST MIGHT SAY SOMETHING TO THAT
EFFECT IN HIS CHICAGO SPEECH. WE THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS
POSSIBLE CUBAN MOTIVES AS WELL AS THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE
CUBANS HAD BEEN DUPED BY THE SOVIETS INTO THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
(I EXPRESSED SOME CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL SKEPTICISM ON THIS
LATTER POINT, SAYING THAT INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN APPARENTLY
CONSISTENT WITH BOTH SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT FOR "WARS
OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.")

3. COMMENT A) I RATHER DOUBT THAT ON REFLECTION THE PRIMIN
WILL IN FACT CHOOSE TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THIS SUBJECT
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IN HIS CHICAGO SPEECH. I GATHER FROM OTHER REMARKS THAT HE
MADE THAT THE SPEECH IS INTENDED TO BE A RATHER LOW-KEY PITCH

TO CHICAGOANS TO COME TO NASSAU FOR SUN OR POSSIBLY INVESTMENT PURPOSES. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON THIS ONE FOR IF HE DOES REFER TO IT AT ALL HE IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE CUBANS AND IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR US TO PUBLICIZE THIS.

B) THE CONVERSATION ALSO SUGGESTED A POINT I HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED, VIZ. THAT THE MOTIVATION FOR THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IS PUZZLING TO THE BAHAMIANS AND MAY WELL PUZZLE OTHERS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. IN PINDLING'S CASE HE TENDED TO IMPLY THAT THE CUBANS MIGHT UNWITTINGLY HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN BY THE SOVIETS. WHILE IN NO WAY RELIEVING THE SOVIETS FROM THEIR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, IF OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE CUBANS WERE WILLING INDEED EVEN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IT MIGHT BE WELL TO PUBLICIZE THIS FACT. IT WOULD SUGGEST, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OTHER STATES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE CARIBBEAN, OUGHT TO BE WARY OF ESTABLISHING TOO CLOSE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUBANS. I LEAVE TO THE DEPARTMENT WHETHER AN EXPOSITION ON CUBAN PURPOSES AND METHODS IN RELATION TO THE ANGOLAN INTERVENTION OR INDEED INTERVENTION ELSEWHERE IS APPROPRIATE.

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